

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system, comprising,
a plurality of processors, each of which is associated with a heat sink; and
5 a memory;
wherein the heat sinks associated with the plurality of processors are sized such that
a linear path for flowing air is not formed in the gap between adjacent heat sinks.
2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the heat sinks are shaped such that each
10 heat sink includes an offset portion that is sized to mate with a coordinate portion in an adjacent heat
sink.
3. The computer system of claim 2, wherein the heat sinks are shaped and oriented
toward one another such that air flowing toward the gap between adjacent heat sinks flows through
15 the fins of the adjacent heat sinks.
4. The computer system of claim 2, wherein the offset portion of each heat sink is
rectangular in nature.
- 20 5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein each heat sink includes two offset portions
positioned on opposite corners of the heat sink.
6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein each heat sink comprises a base and a
plurality of fins coupled to the base.
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7. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the fins are generally parallel to the base.

8. The computer system of claim 5, wherein adjacent heat sinks form between them two linear gaps that are offset from each other by a transverse distance.

9. A heat sink, comprising:

a base; and

a plurality of fins coupled to the base;

wherein the heat sink is sized such that when the heat sink is placed adjacent to a like

5 heat sink a linear path for flowing air is not present between the adjacent heat sinks.

10. The heat sink of claim 9, wherein the heat sink is sized such that the heat sink includes an offset portion that is sized to mate with a coordinate portion in an adjacent heat sink.

10 11. The heat sink of claim 10, wherein the offset portion of the heat sink is rectangular in nature.

12. The heat sink of claim 11, wherein the heat sink includes two offset portions positioned on opposite corners of the heat sink.

15 13. The heat sink of claim 11, wherein the fins of the heat sink are generally parallel to the base of the heat sink.

14. A method for arranging heat sinks in a multiple processor computer system, comprising the step of, for each processor of the computer system, placing a heat sink proximate the processor, wherein each heat sink is sized such that a linear path for air flow is not formed between adjacent heat sinks.

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15. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 14, wherein the heat sinks are shaped such that each heat sink includes an offset portion that is sized to mate with a coordinate portion of the adjacent heat sink.

10 16. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 15, wherein adjacent heat sinks are shaped and oriented toward one another such that air flowing toward the gap between adjacent heat sinks flows through the fins of the adjacent heat sinks.

15 17. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 15, wherein the offset portion of each heat sink is rectangular in nature.

18. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 17, wherein each heat sink includes two offset portions positioned on opposite corners of the heat sink.

20 19. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 18, wherein each heat sink comprises a base and a plurality of fins coupled to the base.

20. The method for arranging heat sinks of a multiple processor system of claim 19, wherein the fins are generally parallel to the base.

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21. The method for arranging heat sinks of claim 15, wherein the adjacent heat sinks form between them two linear gaps that are offset from each other by a transverse distance.

22. The method for arranging heat sinks of claim 15,

wherein each of the heat sinks are shaped such that each heat sink includes two rectangular offset portions at opposite corners of the heat sinks such that the rectangular offset portions each heat sink are sized to mate with the coordinate portion of an adjacent heat sink;

5 wherein each heat sink is comprised of a base and a number of fins oriented in parallel to the surface of the base; and

wherein the adjacent heat sinks form between them two linear gaps that are offset from each other by a transverse distance.

23. A heat sink, comprising:

a base;

a plurality of fins coupled to the base;

wherein the heat sink is sized such that, when the heat sink is placed adjacent to a like

5 heat sink, the adjacent heat sinks form an interlocking pair of heat sinks whose geometries mate with one another; and

wherein the heat sink is sized such that, when the heat sink is placed adjacent to a like heat sink, a linear, transverse path for air flow that is perpendicular to the length of the adjacent heat sinks is not formed between the adjacent heat sinks.

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24. The heat sink of claim 23, wherein the fins of the heat sink are generally parallel to the base of the heat sink.

25. The heat sink of claim 23, wherein the fins of the heat sink are generally
15 perpendicular to the base of the heat sink.